

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable consideration of this application as presently amended is respectfully requested.

New Claims 2-29 are currently pending in the above-identified patent application,
Claim 1 having been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer by way of the present
Preliminary Amendment.

Accordingly, examination on the merits is believed to be in order and an early and
favorable action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Bradley D. Lytle
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 40,073

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 08/03)